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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/825,254 Confirmation No.

Applicant : Tim Joseph Avampato et al.

Filed : April 15, 2004

TC/A.U. : Examiner :

Docket No. : F-8034A(01-443-2)

Customer No.: 34704

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance Applicants' continued duty of disclosure, the following documents are brought to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 3,093,157

U.S. Patent No. 3,752,183

U.S. Patent No. 3,426,801

U.S. Patent No. 4,326,377

U.S. Patent No. 2,936,557

A copy of the aforementioned documents are enclosed along with a listing on Form PTO-1449.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a search report issued on January 20, 2004 in a corresponding European application.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any

admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response. Should the Commissioner determine that a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Joseph Avampato et al.

Bv

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Date: April 20, 2004

l, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on April 20, 2004.

PTO/SB/08A (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Complete if Known

10/825,254

April 15, 2004

Tim Joseph Avampato et al.

APR 2 2 2004 tion Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. der the Paperwork Ro

Filing Date

**Application Number** 

First Named Inventor

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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

WENT BY APPLICANT	Art Unit		
se as many sheets as necessary)	Examiner Name		
of 1	Attorney Docket Number	F-8034A(01-443-2)	

	1 60.			DOCUMENTS	
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number  Number-Kind Code <sup>2 (f known)</sup>	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		<sup>US-</sup> 3,093,157	06-11-1963	Aitken et al.	
		<sup>US-</sup> 3,752,183	08-14-1973	Griswold	
		<sup>US-</sup> 3,426,801	02-11-1969	Curran	
		<sup>US-</sup> 4,326,377	04-27-1982	Jaqua	
		<sup>US-</sup> 2,936,557	05-17-1960	Amnens	
		US-			
·		US-			
		US-			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages	
		Country Code <sup>3 -</sup> Number <sup>4 -</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> ( <i>if known</i> )	MM-DD-YYYY		Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sub>e</sub>

Examiner	Date	•
Signature	Consider	red

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov">www.uspto.gov</a> or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND** TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.